The Hell

O ALLAH! SAVE US FROM
THE PUNISHMENT OF THE FIRE

In the Light of
Quran & Sunnah

THE HELL

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

Hell is the abode of the unfortunate. It is a place of humiliation and torturous punishment where there will be nothing to do for its inhabitants except sighing and shedding tears. They will be hemmed between a floor of fire and a ceiling of flames, dressed in tailor-made garments of liquid tar, chained and fettered and with iron collars in their necks. Their food will be Zaqqum that is like the dregs of oil which will churn inside their stomachs and their drink will be scalding water which will boil inside the stomach and cut up their bowels.

The residents of Hell will pray constantly for death but their supplication will not be granted. Patience will not lessen the punishment nor will groaning and wailing reduce their agony. This outcome, (may Allah protect us from it) could be the fate of any of us who leads a heedless life oblivious to the terrors described above.

"Then for such as had transgressed all bounds, and had preferred the life of this world, the Abode will be Hell-Fire." **(Quran 79: 37-39)**

Many of us have only heard of Hell but are unaware of its terrors; otherwise we would not consider any other threat a greater than the hell-fire. If we think that there is even the slightest chance of finding snakes or scorpions on a particular path, we would not be even be ready passing close to it. Yet, it is so strange that the very same people who are so cautious in avoiding potentially dangerous situations in this world are not prepared to even think seriously for a few moments about the danger which Allah has warned us against. He has made His message very clear.through His 124,000 messengers, several divine books, and the innumerable signs placed both within us and around us in the universe.

A person cannot even tolerate a minor burn, so how will he be able to bear the torment and punishment of such a terrible place as Hell? Man finds the sweltering heat of summer sometimes so unbearable and yet misled and lured by Satan and unable to resist his temptations.He is practically racing on a path that leads to eternal punishment.

By being unaware of Allah's religion and simply leading life based on hearsay, we have reached a point where people are doing those deeds that are ruining the lives of millions of people. On one hand, they are doing things like producing indecent and vulgar films, making counterfeit medicines and plundering national wealth, and on the other hand they are very confident that a place in Paradise awaits them. Despite the fact that their sins have adversely affected the lives of so many people who will be seeking to avenge themselves and calling for their accountability on the Day of Resurrection. Such criminals will have to pay the price for causing suffering and loss to so many people and their successive generations.

After death, we will neither feel the pleasurable sensation we experienced at the time of sinning, nor will we experience the hardship that we bore in the process of performing our acts of worship and obedience to Allah. Both sensations will end with death but the consequences of our sins and virtuous deeds will remain in the form of eternal punishment and rewards.

Hell in the Light of The Quran and The Sunnah

The Fetters and Tar of Hell

"And you will see the Sinners that day bound together in fetters; their garments of liquid pitch and their faces covered with Fire."

(Quran 14;49-50)

The Pus of Hell

"In front of such a one is Hell and he is given for drink boiling fetid water. In gulps will he sip it, but never will he be near swallowing it down his throat: Death will come to him from every quarter yet will he not die: and in front of him will be a chastisement unrelenting." **(Quran 14:16-17)**

"If a bucket of the pus of the inhabitants of hell (that emits from the wounds of the inhabitants of hell and according to the Quran, will be given to them as their nourishment) were poured into the world, the people in the world would have an offensive stench." **(Tirmidhi)**

The Expanse and Depth of Hell

"A stone will be thrown at one side of the Hell and it will go down for seventy years but still will not be able to reach its bottom. By Allah, it will be fully packed." **(Muslim)**

The Inhabitant of Hell with the Least Punishment

"The person who will have the least punishment among the people of Hell on the Day of Resurrection is a man who will be given shoes and laces of fire, because of which his brains will boil like water in a copper vessel. He will not think that anyone could be more severely punished than himself, yet he will be the one with the lightest punishment." **(Muslim)**

The Heat of Hell and the Cries

"When they are cast therein they will hear the (terrible) drawing in of its breath even as it blazes forth, almost bursting with fury: every time a group is cast therein its Keepers will ask, 'Did no Warner come to you?"

(Quran 67:7-8)

Punishment of being Cast into Cramped Cells

"And when they are cast bound together into a constricted place therein they will plead for destruction there and then! "This day plead not for a single destruction: plead for destruction oft-repeated!"

(Quran 25:13-14)

Punishment of being Beaten by Heavy Metal Clubs

"But those who deny (their Lord), for them will be cut out a garment of Fire: over their heads will be poured out boiling water. With it will be scalded what is within their bodies as well as (their) skins. In addition there will be maces of iron (to punish) them. Every time they wish to get away therefrom from anguish they will be forced back therein and (it will be said) "Taste you the Penalty of Burning!" **(Quran 22:19-22)**

The Regrets of the Inhabitants of Hell

"The person who enters Hell will be shown the place he would have occupied in Paradise had he possessed a good character, so that his regrets at his outcome would be intensified." **(Bukhari)**

The Food of the Inhabitants of Hell

"For it is a tree that springs out of the bottom of Hell Fire: The shoots of its fruit-stalks are like the heads of devils: Truly they will eat thereof and fill their bellies therewith. Then on top of that they will be given a mixture made of boiling water. Then shall their return be to the (Blazing) Fire."

(Quran 37:64-68)

Snakes and Scorpions of Hell

"In Hell there are snakes like Bactrian camels, one of which can give a sting the effect of which will be felt for forty years; and in Hell there are scorpions like saddled mules, one of which can give a sting the effect of which will be felt for forty years. " **(Ahmad)**

A person faints when bitten by a poisonous snake and blood starts flowing out from the nose, mouth and even the ears. As for a scorpion bite, the body swells up and one starts to suffocate. Now just imagine what a person would feel if he was bitten by snakes and scorpions, chewing away his flesh and that too, repeatedly! Just try to imagine him panting for breath, turning black and blue and bleeding profusely, all the while conscious of what is happening to him. Just imagine how great his pain and suffering would be!

The Terrors of Hell

"One amongst the denizens of Hell who had led a life of ease and plenty amongst the people of the world would be made to dip in fire only once on the Day of Resurrection and then it would be said to him: 'O, son of Adam, did you find any comfort, did you happen to get any material blessing?' He would say: 'By Allah, no, my Lord.'" **(Muslim)**

The Deeds which will Take People to Hell

Given below are the verses of the Quran and various ahadith regarding those sinners who have been clearly mentioned in the Quran and hadith as people whose abode is Hell. This is not a comprehensive list due to lack of space, only some of the commonly committed sins have been mentioned. It is time that everyone realizes the seriousness of the situation and study the Quran and hadith so that he is familiar with all those actions that result in his incurring Allah's wrath and steer clear of them.

Disbelief

"But those who reject Faith and belie Our Signs they shall be Companions of the Fire; they shall abide therein." **(Quran 2:39)**

Associating Partners with Allah

"Whoever joins other gods with Allah, Allah will forbid him the garden and the Fire will be his abode." **(Quran 5:72)**

Hypocrisy

"The hypocrites will be in the lowest depths of the fire: no helper will you find for them." **(Quran 4:145)**

Not Distributing Inheritance According to Allah's Laws

In our society, most people do not distribute the inheritance of the deceased in the correct Islamic way. Women are invariably deprived of their share of inheritance. After stating the laws in inheritance in verses 7 to 12 of Surah An-Nisaa, Allah, in the next verse has referred to them as the limits set by Him and told us that those that transgress these limits will be cast into the fire.

"But those who disobey Allah and His Apostle and transgress His limits will be admitted to a fire to abide therein: and they shall have a humiliating punishment." **(Quran 4:14)**

Eating up the Property of Orphans

"Those who unjustly eat up the property of orphans eat up a fire into their own bodies: they will soon be enduring a blazing fire! " **(Quran 4:10)**

Killing a Believer

"If a man kills a believer intentionally his recompense is Hell to abide therein (for ever): and the wrath and the curse of Allah are upon him and a dreadful penalty is prepared for him." **(Quran 4:93)**

Spreading Scandals

"Those who love (to see) scandal circulate among the Believers will have a grievous Penalty in this life and in the Hereafter: Allah knows and you know not." **(Quran 24:19)**

Concealing Allah's Commands

"Those who conceal Allah's revelations in the Book and purchase for them a miserable profit they swallow into themselves naught but fire; Allah will not address them on the Day of Resurrection nor purify them; grievous will be their penalty." **(Quran 2:174)**

Slandering Chaste Women

"Those who slander chaste women, indiscreet but believing, are cursed in this life and in the Hereafter: for them is a grievous Penalty."

(Quran 24:23)

Taking Riba - Usury

"Those who devour usury will not stand except as stands one whom the Evil One by his touch has driven to madness … those who repeat (the offence) are companions of the fire: they will abide therein (for ever)."

(Quran 2:275)

Not Repenting for Major Sins

"Of no effect is the repentance of those who continue to do evil until death faces one of them and he says, 'Now have I repented indeed'; nor of those who die rejecting faith: for them have We prepared a punishment most grievous." **(Quran 4:18)**

Not doing Enough Good Deeds

"But he whose balance (of good deeds) will be (found) light, will have his home in a (bottomless) pit. And what will explain to you what this is? (It is) a Fire Blazing fiercely!" **(Quran 101:8-11)**

Arrogance in Accepting the Quranic Injuctions

"To those who reject Our signs and treat them with arrogance, no opening will there be of the gates of heaven nor will they enter the garden until the camel can pass through the eye of the needle: such is Our reward for those in sin. For them there is hell as a couch (below) and folds and folds of covering above: such is Our requital of those who do wrong."

(Quran 7:40-41)

Disobeying the Messenger

"The Day that the wrongdoer will bite at his hands He will say "Oh! would that I had taken a (straight) path with the Apostle!" **(Quran 25:27)**

Nor Practicing what You Preach

"A man will be brought on the Day of Resurrection and thrown in the (Hell) Fire, so that his intestines will come out, and he will go around like a donkey goes around a millstone. The people of (Hell) Fire will gather around him and say: 'O so-and-so! What is wrong with you? Didn't you use to order us to do good deeds and forbid us to do bad deeds?' He will reply: 'Yes, I used to order you to do good deeds, but I did not do them myself, and I used to forbid you to do bad deeds, yet I used to do them myself.'"

(Bukhari)

Being Arrogant

"The proud will be resurrected like specks on the Day of Resurrection in the form of men, covered all round with ignominy. They will be driven to a prison with the hottest fire rising over them, and will be given to drink the liquid of the inhabitants of Hell." **(Tirmidhi)**

Committing Suicide

"Whoever purposely throws himself from a mountain and kills himself, will be in the (Hell) Fire falling down into it and abiding therein perpetually forever; and whoever drinks poison and kills himself with it, he will be carrying his poison in his hand and drinking it in the (Hell) Fire wherein he will abide eternally forever; and whoever kills himself with an iron weapon, will be carrying that weapon in his hand and stabbing his abdomen with it in the (Hell) Fire wherein he will abide eternally forever." **(Bukhari)**

Some Other Deadly Sins

- *"He who appropriated the right of a Muslim by (swearing a false) oath, Allah would make Hell-fire necessary for him and would declare Paradise forbidden for him." A person said to him: "Messenger of Allah, even if it is something insignificant?" He (the Prophet) replied:"(Yes) even if it is the twig of the arak tree."* **(Muslim)**
- *"Fornicators (men and women) will be punished by having their naked bodies burnt in the same oven."* **(Bukhari)**
- *"Every intoxicant is forbidden. Verily Allah, the Exalted and Majestic, made a covenant to those who drank intoxicants to make them drink Tinat al-Khabal which is the sweat of the denizens of Hell or the discharge of the denizens of Hell."* **(Muslim)**
- *"Do you know what most commonly brings people into Hell? It is the two hollow things: the mouth and the private parts."* **(Tirmidhi)**

Terrified of Hell

Despite complete submission and obedience to Allah's commands, the pious companions (RAA) of the Prophet (SAW) were so terrified of Allah's seizure that at just the mention of the Hereafter they would start crying. They would weep so much that their beards would get soaked with tears. When reciting the Quran, understanding its meanings as they did, their voices would choke from fear of Allah and some would even fall down fainted . Many of them would toss and turn in their beds all night, unable to sleep and would say: "O Allah, the fear of Hell has made me sleepless." They would get up at night and pray till morning, begging and pleading to Allah in prayer. Some would say: "I wish I was a reed that was cut down and became fodder for the animals," or "I wish I was ash lying on some sand dune that the wind would carry away with it." One companion passed by an iron-monger's shop and seeing the smoldering-red piece of iron being taken out of the furnace, stood outside and started to weep.

These were the pious personalities (RAA) whose days were spent in worshiping Allah and obeying Allah and His Prophet (SAW) and whose nights were spent in standing in prayer, pleading to their Allah for His Mercy and Forgiveness. Despite their Eeman- belief and righteous actions, they were not heedless to the possibility of their Lord's seizure and shuddered at the thought of His punishment every waking moment of their lives. But as for us, we have neither the level of their Eeman, nor the quality and soundness of their actions and deeds; and yet we are so fearless of Hell as if there is nothing to worry about!

Who knew better than the companions of our beloved Prophet (SAW) that Allah is the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful? But despite knowing this, they were never overconfident of His Mercy and careless when it came to sinning. The people who deserve to hope for Allah's Mercy and Forgiveness are those who lead their lives fearing Allah and who constantly seek forgiveness for those sins which they may commit unintentionally. But the people who sin flagrantly and constantly relying on Allah's Mercy and Forgiveness, should know that they are being deluded by Satan. Allowing ourselves to be deceived by Satan can only result in our ruin and destruction. While a believer should always be hopeful of Allah's Mercy, he should also be fearful of Allah's punishment. The Prophet (SAW) said: *"Had the non-believer known of all the Mercy which is in the Hands of Allah, he would not lose hope of entering Paradise, and had the believer known of all the punishment which is present with Allah, he would not consider himself safe from the Hell-Fire."* **(Bukhari)**

BEWARE!

This world is not only temporal, but a complete deception. Here, the reality of situations and things is very different from what it appears to be. Heaps of gold and silver on which zakat is not given are not gold and silver, but smoldering coals for branding the non-payers of zakah and snakes that will bite them. Usury, bribes, gambling, stealing, robbery, embezzlement, misappropriation and wealth acquired through any other unlawful means is not wealth but snakes and scorpions of the fire. Status and ranks acquired through use of cunning, fraud and deception are not cause for honor and respect, but are chains and fetter of fire. Business expanded through employing lewd and shameful means is not business but fuel for the fire.

O you who unjustly consume the wealth of widows and orphans and wrongly usurp the property of others! O you who steal from public coffers and who make money from usury and gambling! O you who drink wine and make merry! It is time that you reflect on your behavior and actions. Don't just think about this once, but deliberate on it and decide for yourself whether you think you will be able to eat the tree of Zaqqum and the thorny grass that grows in Hell … or drink the pus and blood oozing out from the wounds of flesh burnt in the fire of Hell … or drink from cups that contain filthy smelling, dirty and black water? In this world you cannot even tolerate a speck of filth falling into your food and water, and if this does happen, you throw it all away. Why are you determined to disobey Allah and make yourself deserving of the eternal punishment of Hell? What is the value of the fun and merriment of this world if its exchange in the next world is perpetual suffering? Is it really worth it?

This world is transient and merely a place of trial; our real abode is the Hereafter. Our enemy from the beginning of time is Satan who was responsible for deceiving our father and mother Adam and Eve and getting them sent out of Paradise. He has resolved to deceive us also and by immersing us in this world's attractions and luring us into temptation, he wants us, like him, to be deprived of Paradise. Remember that he has openly declared his intentions: *"I will make (wrong) fair-seeming to them on the earth and I will put them all in the wrong. Except your servants among them sincere and purified (by Your grace)."* **(Quran 15:39-40)**

Beware of Satan's deception! The promises of the accursed Satan are all false. Whoever falls prey to his schemes and plots and allows himself to be deceived by him will be taken with him to Hell.

LASTLY

It is natural that when he perceives a danger, be it a ferocious beast chasing him or a cruel and strong enemy pursuing him, he runs away from it with all the speed he can muster up and just keeps running. He does not stop or rest till he is completely satisfied and sure that he is out of danger. Similarly, when he wishes to acquire something he desires, a person neither sleeps, nor rests in peace till he has acquired it. However, the unfortunate thing is that despite the fact that there is nothing more frightening than Hell and nothing more desirable than Paradise, when it comes to Hell and Paradise, people's attitude and behavior is very surprising. Instead of expending their full energy into fleeing from Hell, they are heedless and lethargic and instead of making the utmost efforts to attain Paradise, even the people who desire it fervently are still deliberating on the matter and dreaming about it without doing anything to get there.

Here is the Recommended Course of Action

We should start by investing time and energy into acquiring authentic knowledge of Islam i.e. that knowledge which will bond us to the Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet (SAW). Ignorance related to worldly matters or the Hereafter will cause us great loss. When ignorance of the law is not accepted as an excuse in courts of this world, how can it be accepted as a valid excuse in the Hereafter? Secondly, we should make the environment of our home Islamic. Thirdly, we should completely refrain from all major sins and if we do happen to commit them, we should repent immediately and ask Allah for forgiveness, at the same time resolving to stay away from anything which could lead to a repetition of that sin.

In the case of someone having been wronged, an injustice has been done or someone's rights have been usurped, we must compensate them for the harm done and also ask for their forgiveness. If for some reason this is not possible, as for example, the person who has been wronged has passed away, then one should pray to Allah to bestow His Mercy and Forgiveness upon him. In the case of committing minor sins, we should ask Allah's forgiveness and try to offset them by doing virtuous deeds such as voluntary prayer, fasting, charity etc. and by making frequent supplications to Allah to save us from Hell and to grant us entry to Paradise.

After doing all the aforementioned things, one should have full confidence and hope in Allah that by His Grace and Mercy, He will save us from the punishment of the Fire and enter us into His Paradise which is full of His blessings and bounties.

رَبَّنَا اصْرِفْ عَنَّا عَذَابَ جَهَنَّمَ ۖ إِنَّ عَذَابَهَا كَانَ غَرَامًا ۝ إِنَّهَا سَاءَتْ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَمُقَامًا ۝ (الفرقان- ٦٥،٦٦)

"Our Lord! Avert from us the Wrath of Hell for its Wrath is indeed an affliction grievous.Evil indeed is it as an abode and as a place to rest in."
(Quran 25:65-66) Aameen

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